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Photo by Bradford Washburn

TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY UP MT. MCKINLEY

(See page 2)

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO

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February Announcement

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in North American Hall, West Wing of the Academy buildings in Golden Gate Park, Wednesday afternoon and evening February 15, 1950. A brief business session will be held in the afternoon at 2:30 to hear reports of officers of the Academy and curators. During the afternoon from 2 to 4:30, the various departments of the Academy will be open to those who wish to visit them. The election of officers for the ensuing year will be announced at the evening session. At 8 p.m., the Academy will again welcome Mr. BRADFORD WASHBURN, distinguished director of the Boston Museum of Science. With the aid of colored motion pictures, Mr. Washburn will give an account of

CONQUERING MOUNT MCKINLEY

In 1935 Mr. Washburn was leader of the Yukon expedition of the National Geographic Society. More recently, 1942–1945, he was an expert for the War Department on Alaskan mountains and glaciers and worked on development of cold-weather clothing and equipment for the armed forces. He has climbed Mt. McKinley on two occasions, in 1942 and 1947.

The Academy's interest in Alaska and Mt. McKinley was early reflected in a special meeting in the eighties addressed by Lieut. Frederick Schwatka, explorer and author of *Nimrod in the North*. Another Alaskan authority, William H. Dall, founded the Academy's Department of Paleontology. His great work, *Alaska and its Resources*, 1870, was illustrated by another Academy member, Henry W. Elliott. Belmore Browne, whose book *The Conquest of Mt. McKinley* appeared in 1913 and who has painted, sketched, and climbed the peak, is presently a member as are other Alaskan authorities, Francis P. Farquhar and Mildred P. Ashley. Other members interested in Alaska at one time or another were John Muir and William P. Blake, as well as the Academy's great president George Davidson whose *Alaska Coast Pilot* is still in use.

Among the early and appropriate names for Mt. McKinley is *Bulshaia*, a corruption for the Russian, *big*. It was given its present name in 1895 by W. A. Dickey who published an account of it in the late New York *Sun*, January 24, 1897. On the topic of its Russian origins, Alaska was discovered by Vitus Bering in 1741. Encouraged in his voyage by Tzar Peter the Great, Bering had to cross dreary thousands of miles of Siberia to set sail upon the sea that later was to bear his name.

Mt. McKinley, known to white men for nearly one hundred and fifty years, raises its twin summits, which are snow covered throughout the year, to an altitude of 20,300 feet above sea level and 17,000 feet above timber line. It has been a Na-

tional Park since 1917. Although there were earlier attempts, Mt. McKinley was first climbed in 1910 by two sourdoughs. The first woman to scale its summit was Mrs. Bradford Washburn in 1947.

BIRTHDAY CUSTOM IN REVERSE

ON HER NINETY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY, Miss Alice Eastwood turned the tables by presenting the Academy with a handsome gift, seven hundred dollars worth of books. Using the balance of an accumulated fund presented by friends for purchase of books for her own use, Miss Eastwood bought for the Academy the seven volumes on botany from Humboldt's *Voyages*. A photolith copy of the exceedingly rare 1815 original, the gift cost six hundred dollars. The balance of Miss Eastwood's gift is for botany leaflets. The Humboldt work, indispensable to botanists, is a utilitarian rather than an antiquarian gift, a work that will serve well Miss Eastwood's successors. In her fifty-seven years as Curator of Botany, whenever she had occasion to consult Humboldt's definitive work, Miss Eastwood had to make a trip to Sutro Library or across the bay to the University of California.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE by Dr. Harold G. Weaver of Lick Observatory on "The Planets" is announced by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific as one of the Alexander F. Morrison Foundation series. The date is February 17, 1950, the time 8 p.m., and the place the P. G. & E. Auditorium, 245 Market Street, San Francisco.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council approved the applications of the persons listed below for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after February 7, they will be considered elected.

FOR REGULAR MEMBERSHIP:

Mr. Arch R. Addington	Mrs. Irma D. Blake	Mr. David D. Cudaback
Dr. John H. Allington	Mr. Alexander E. Bojko	Mr. Ben H. Cummings
Miss Margaret Alter	Mr. Eugene C. Bovee	Mr. Blake Darling
Mr. John H. Altseimer	Mrs. Wanda L. Bradley	Mrs. Marion E. Davis
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Mrs. John Augsbury	Dr. E. C. Bull	Miss Jacqueline de La Harpe
Mr. Charles F. Ayer	Dr. William G. Burkhard	Mr. R. R. Delareuelle
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Dr. Elbridge Best	Mr. Eugene Compton	Dr. Lynn Foree
Mr. Reginald Biggs	Miss Maryline Conrey	Mr. Loris M. Foster
	Mr. S. P. Cronheim	Miss Lucile E. Foster